



California State Parks

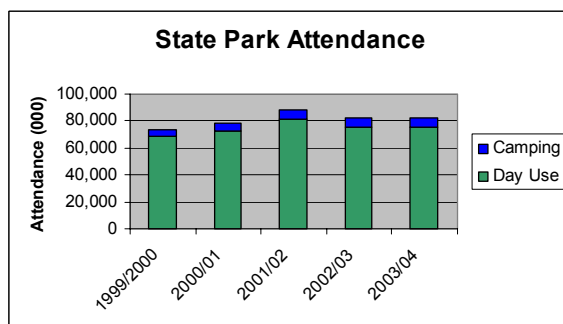
Quick Facts



Last updated 1/11/2005

Parks by the Numbers

- ❖ There are 278 classified and unclassified units in the State Park System in 23 districts, including five in the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.
- ❖ A total of 1.5 million acres of land are owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation. This is nearly 1.5% of the total area of California.
- ❖ Californians have fewer acres of State Park System land available to them per capita today than at anytime since 1930.
- ❖ Over six and one half (6.5) million feet of waterfront are owned by the Department. This includes 3.4 million feet of lakefront, 1.6 million feet (280 miles) of ocean front, and 1.7 million feet of river front.
- ❖ The California Department of Parks and Recreation provides the public with: over 15,000 individual and group camp sites, 590 non-camping overnight facilities, nearly 8,000 picnic sites, and 3,760 miles of non-motorized trails.
- ❖ Over 81 million people visited California State Parks in the 2003/04 fiscal year. At 1 oz. of sunscreen per person, that equals 1.3 million gallons of sun protection!
- ❖ 3% of park visitors operate off-highway vehicles in State Park units each year.



❖ Top Ten State Parks (2003/2004 Attendance):

1. Old Town San Diego SHP
2. Bolsa Chica State Beach
3. San Onofre State Beach
4. Huntington State Beach

5. Sonoma Coast State Beach
6. Seacliff State Beach
7. Doheny State Beach
8. Carlsbad State Beach
9. New Brighton State Beach
10. Malibu Lagoon State Beach

❖ Top Attendance by Unit Type

(2003/2004 Attendance):

- State Historic Park—Old Town San Diego
- State Beach – Bolsa Chica
- State Park – Morro Bay
- State Vehicular Recreation Area – Oceano Dunes
- State Recreation Area – Lake Perris
- State Reserve – Armstrong Redwoods
- State Historic Monument – Hearst San Simeon SHM

❖ Nine California State Parks were named to the **2004 Top 100 Family Campgrounds in the U.S.** in a survey conducted by Reserve America:

- Auburn State Recreation Area
- Benbow Lake State Recreation Area
- Calaveras Big Trees State Park
- Emerald Bay State Park
- Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
- Lake Oroville State Recreation Area
- Limekiln State Park
- Palomar Mountain State Park
- Russian Gulch State Park

❖ A significant portion of California's natural and cultural resources are protected in California State Parks:

- 94% of the 1.5 million acres of the State Park System is managed for natural resource values.
- State Parks is responsible for documentation, preservation and care of 10,000 known prehistoric and historic archeological sites, 3,000 historic buildings, and more than 6 million museum objects, archival documents and specimens.

❖ Over the last 40 years the Department's Office of Grants and Local Services has



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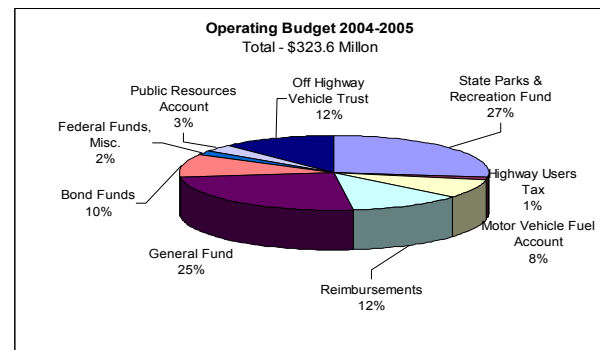
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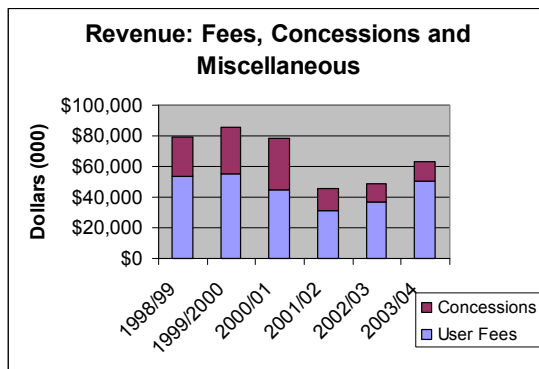
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administered over \$2 billion in local assistance grants. Included are funds approved by the passage of Park Bond Acts, as well as federal monies such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

- ❖ The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division has administered \$257.8 million in off-highway vehicle grant funds.
- ❖ State Parks is authorized to employ approximately 2,400 permanent staff and approximately 2,700 seasonal staff to administer, protect, operate and maintain the state park system.
- ❖ Nearly 11,000 volunteers contributed over 900,000 hours to the department in 2003. Volunteers staff visitor centers, maintain trails, serve as camp hosts, present interpretive programs and special events, and do much more.



- ❖ California State Parks' Concessions Program includes over 170 concession contracts, including for-profit and non-profit concessionaries (2003/04).
- ❖ California State Parks' 2004-2005 budget totals \$323.6 Million. The largest sources for these funds are:
 - State Parks and Recreation Fund (\$87.1 million)
 - General Fund (\$82.3 million)
- ❖ Interpretive programs add to the appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural resources preserved in California State Parks:
 - In 2002/03, over 1.5 million visitors enjoyed guided hikes, tours, talks and demonstrations.
 - Each year approximately 600,000 school children attend formal interpretive programs in state parks.
 - Young visitors also participate in programs designed specifically for them, such as the Junior Rangers and Junior Lifeguards.



- ❖ Learn more about California State Parks with these *Quick Facts* sheets:
 - At a Park Near You* – the connection between State Parks and California residents
 - Camping In Your California State Parks* – reservation tips
 - The Cultural Resources of California State Parks* - State Parks contain a wide variety of cultural resources
 - Dollars and Cents* – State Park funding, local grants and concessions
 - The Future of California State Parks* – State Parks are part of the California lifestyle
 - Interpretation and Education* – learning is fun in California State Parks!
 - The Natural Resources of California State Parks* – State Parks preserve some of the state's most important natural treasures
 - California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division* – fun off the road in California State Parks
 - Park People* - the people that protect and operate California's State Parks
 - Topical Matters* - important State Park topics in the news
 - What's in a Park?* – the wide variety of places and experiences you can find in California State Parks